What is claimed is:

1. A compound of the formulae

where at least one R is $-(A)_p-R_2$ where $(A)_p$ is a linking group and R_2 is a hypoxia localizing moiety; and wherein the other R groups are the same, or different and are independently selected

from hydrogen, halogen, hydroxy, alkyl, alkenyl,

alkynyl, alkoxy, aryl, -COOR₃, -C-NHR₃, -NH₂, hydroxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, hydroxyaryl, haloalkyl,

- arylalkyl, -alkyl-COOR₃, -alkyl-CON(R₃)₂, -alkyl-N(R₃)₂, -aryl-COOR₃, -aryl-CON(R₃)₂,
 - -aryl-N(R_3)₂, 5- or 6-membered nitrogen- or oxygen-containing heterocycle; or two R groups taken together with the one or more atoms to which they
- are attached form a carbocyclic or heterocyclic, saturated or unsaturated spiro or fused ring which may be substituted with R groups;

 R_1 is hydrogen, a thiol protecting group or $-(A)_p-R_2$;

 R_3 is hydrogen, alkyl or aryl;

m = 2 to 5;

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p = 0 to 20.

A complex of a metal and a ligand,
 which ligand includes a hypoxia-localizing moiety,
 wherein said complex has

wherein said complex has a permeability through cell membranes greater than that of 14C-sucrose.

- 3. The complex of claim 2 having a coordination number less than 7.
- 25 4. The complex of claim 2 wherein the metal is non-radioactive.
 - 5. The complex of claim 2 wherein the metal is radioactive.
- The complex of claim 5 wherein said
 metal is technetium or rhenium.
 - 7. The complex of claim 6 wherein said metal is in the +5 oxidation state.

8. The complex of claim 2 wherein said ligand forms a chelate with said metal.

, (°).

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- 9. The complex of claim 8 wherein said complex is formed from a bidentate ligand.
- 10. The complex of claim 8 wherein said complex is formed from a tridentate ligand.
- 11. The complex of claim 8 wherein said complex is formed from a tetradentate ligand.
- 12. The complex of claim 2 wherein said 10 ligand is selected from

where at least one R is $-(A)_p-R_2$ where $(A)_p$ is a linking group and R_2 is a hypoxia localizing moiety; and wherein the other R groups are the same, or different and are independently selected

from hydrogen, halogen, hydroxy, alkyl, alkenyl,

alkynyl, alkoxy, aryl, -COOR₃, -C-NHR₃, -NH₂, hydroxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, hydroxyaryl, haloalkyl, arylalkyl, -alkyl-COOR₃, -alkyl-CON(R₃)₂, -alkyl-N(R₃)₂, -aryl-COOR₃, -aryl-CON(R₃)₂, -aryl-N(R₃)₂, 5- or 6-membered nitrogen- or oxygen-containing heterocycle; or two R groups taken together with the one or more atoms to which they are attached form a carbocyclic or heterocyclic, saturated or unsaturated spiro or fused ring which may be substituted with R groups;

R₃ is hydrogen, alkyl or aryl;
m = 2 to 5;

p = 0 to 20.

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13. The complex of claim 12, wherein said ligand is selected from formula Ia or Ib, and where the Thetal is a radionuclide of technetium.

14. The complex of claim 12, wherein said ligand has the formula Ib, and wherein said metal is a radionuclide of rhenium.

15. The metal complex of claim 12 containing the linking group $(A)_p$, wherein p is an integer greater than zero, and the various A units (which form a straight or branched chain) are independently selected from $-CH_2-$, $-CHR_4-$, $-CR_4R_5-$, -CH=CH-, $-CH=CR_4-$, $-CR_4=CR_5-$, -C=C-, cycloalkyl, cycloalkenyl, aryl, heterocyclo,

oxygen, sulfur, -C-, -NH-, -HC=N-, $-CR_4$ =N-, 30 $-NR_4$ -, -CS-; wherein R_4 and R_5 are independently selected from alkyl, alkenyl, alkoxy, aryl, 5- or

6-membered nitrogen- or oxygen-containing heterocycle, halogen, hydroxy or hydroxyalkyl.

16. The metal complex of claim 15 wherein (A)_p is absent or is selected from alkyl, oxa-alkyl, hydroxyalkyl, hydroxyalkoxy, alkenyl arylalkyl, alkenyl, arylalkylamide, alkylamide, alkylamine and (alkylamine)alkyl.

17. The metal complex of claim 16 wherein (A) $_{\rm p}$ is absent or is selected from -(CH $_2$) $_{1-5}$ -,

 $-CH_2-CH=CH-CH_2-$, $-(CH_2)_{0-3}-C-NH-(CH_2)_{0-3}-$,

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$$-(CH_2)_{0-3}-NH-CO(CH_2)_{0-3}-$$
, $-(CH_2)_{0-2}-$,

-CH₂CH(OH)CH₂OCH₂- -CH₂-C-NH-CH₂- , -CH₂-CH-CH₂- , OH OH

 $-(A_3-O-A_3')_{1-3}$ or $-(A_3-NH-A_3')_{1-3}$; wherein A_3 and A_3' are the same or different alkyl.

18. A metal complex in accordance with claim 12 wherein the hypoxia localizing moiety (R_2) is a hypoxia-mediated nitro-heterocyclic group.

19. A complex in accordance with claim 18 wherein said linker/hypoxia-localizing portion of the complex are selected from

5 $-(A)_{p}-N$ $(R_{7})_{n-2}$

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 $-(A)_{p} \xrightarrow{NO_{2}} (R_{7})_{n-3}$

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or

 $-(A)_{p} + O \times NO_{2} \times (R_{7})_{p=2}$

the ring portion being a 5- or 6-membered cyclic or aromatic ring, wherein;

n is the total number of substitution

positions available on the 5- or 6-membered ring;
one or more of said R, groups are
independently hydrogen, halogen, alkyl, aryl,
alkoxy, hydroxy, hydroxyalkyl, hydroxyalkoxy,
alkenyl, arylalkyl, arylalkylamide, alkylamide,
alkylamine and (alkylamine)alkyl;

 X_1 is nitrogen, sulfur, oxygen, -CR7= or -CRR-; and

(A)_p can be absent in which case the nitroheterocyclic hypoxia localizing moiety is linked to the rest of the complex of claim 18 via a ring nitrogen or carbon atom, or (A)_p comprises the link between the nitro-heterocyclic group and said rest of the complex of claim 18.

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20. The complex of claim 18 wherein said hypoxia-mediated nitro-heterocyclic group is selected from 2-, 4- or 5-nitroimidazoles, nitro-furans, nitrothiazoles and derivatives thereof.

21. The complex of claim 20 wherein said localizing group of the complex is selected from

22. The complex of claim 20 wherein the linking group/localizing moiety portion of the complex is selected from

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23. The complex of claim 12 wherein said ligand is of the formula

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24. The complex of claim 23 wherein R₂ is a nitroheterocyclic group and each R is selected from hydrogen, hydroxy, alkyl, alkylamidealkyl, alkoxyalkyl, alkyloxycarbonylalkyl or halogen.

25. The complex of claim 12 wherein said ligand is of the formula

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26. The complex of claim 25 wherein R_2 is a nitroheterocyclic group and each R can be hydrogen or alkyl.

27. A complex of claim 2 comprising a radionuclide and a ligand bound to a hypoxia-localizing moiety, wherein said ligand/localizing moiety has the name 3,3,9,9-tetramethyl-1-(2-nitro-1H-imidazol-1-yl)-4,8-diazaundecane-2,10-dione dioxime.

28. A complex of claim 2 comprising a radionuclide and a ligand bound to a hypoxia-localizing moiety, wherein said ligand/localizing moiety has the name 3,3,9,9-tetramethyl-1-(4-nitro-1H-imidazol-1-yl)-4,8-diazaundecane-2,10-dione dioxime.

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29. A complex of claim 2 comprising a radionuclide and a ligand bound to a hypoxia15 localizing moiety, wherein said ligand/localizing moiety has the name 4,4,10,10-tetramethyl-1-(2-nitro-1H-imidazol-1-yl)-5,9-diazadodecane-3,11-dione dioxime.

30. A complex of claim 2 comprising a radionuclide and a ligand bound to a hypoxia-localizing moiety, wherein said ligand/localizing moiety has the name 6-hydroxy-3,3,9,9-tetramethyl-1-(2-nitro-lH-imidazol-1-yl)-4,8-diazaundecane-2,10-dione dioxime.

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31. A complex of claim 2 comprising a radionuclide and a ligand bound to a hypoxia-localizing moiety, wherein said ligand/localizing moiety has the name 3,3,9,9-tetramethyl-6-((2-nitro-lH-imidazoli-yl)acetamido)-4,8-diazaundecane-30
2,10-dione dioxime.

32. A complex of claim 2 comprising a radionuclide and a ligand bound to a hypoxia-localizing moiety, wherein said ligand/localizing moiety has the name 3,3,9,9-tetramethyl-6-((2-nitro-lH-imidazol-l-yl)ethyl)-4,8-diazaundecane-2,10-dione dioxime.

33. The complex of claim 12 wherein the ligand is of the formula

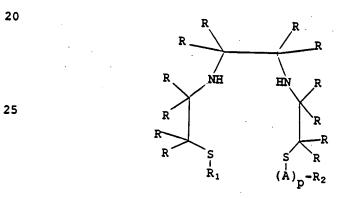
wherein R_1 is selected from H or a thiol protecting group and the other R groups are independently selected from H, hydroxy or alkyl.

34. A complex of claim 33 comprising a radionuclide and a ligand bound to a hypoxia25 localizing moiety wherein said ligand has the name 5,8-diaza-1,2-dithia-5-(2-(2-nitro-1H-imidazol-1-yl)-ethyl)-3,3,10,10-tetramethylcyclodecane.

35. The complex of claim 12 wherein the ligand is of the formula

wherein R₁ is selected from H or a thiol 15 protecting group and the other R groups are independently selected from H, hydroxy or alkyl.

36. The complex of claim 12 wherein the ligand is of the formula



wherein R₁ is selected from H or a thiol protecting group and the other R groups are independently selected from H, hydroxy or alkyl or two R groups taken together with the one or more atoms to which they are attached form a carbocyclic or heterocyclic saturated or unsaturated spiro or fused ring which may be substituted with R groups.

- 37. A kit suitable for preparation of a metal complex of claim 2 comprising
- a source of a ligand selected from the compounds of claim 1; and
- a reducing agent.
- 38. The kit of claim 37 wherein said reducing agent is a stannous compound.
- 39. The kit of claim 37 wherein said metal is selected from technetium and rhenium.
- 10 -40. A multivial kit suitable for preparation of a metal complex of claim 2 comprising in a first vial
 - a source of an exchange ligand; and
 - a reducing agent; and,
- 15 in a second vial,

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- a source of a ligand selected from the compounds of claim 1.
- 41. The kit of claim 40 wherein said reducing agent is a stannous compound.
- 20 42. The kit of claim 40 wherein said exchange ligand is selected from glucoheptonate, diethylenetriamine pentaacetic acid, mannitol, malate, citric acid and tartaric acid.
- 43. The kit of claim 40 wherein said metal 25 is selected from technetium and rhenium.
 - 44. A process for preparing an alkylene diamineoxime comprising reacting an alkylene diamine with two equivalents of a haloketone to provide an alkylene diaminediketone which is thereafter converted to said alkylene diaminedioxime; or

reacting an alkylene diamine with one equivalent of a first haloketone and reacting the resulting product with one equivalent of a second haloketone and thereafter converting to said alkylene diaminedioxime; or

reacting an alkylene diamine with one equivalent of a chloronitroso, then reacting the product with a haloketone, thereafter converting to said alkylene diamine dioxime.

45. A process for preparing a compound of the formula

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where at least one R is $-(A)_p-R_2$ where $(A)_p$ is a linking group and R_2 is a hypoxia localizing moiety; and wherein the other R groups are the same, or different and are independently selected from hydrogen, halogen, hydroxy, alkyl, alkenyl,

alkynyl, alkoxy, aryl, -COOR₃, -C-NHR₃, -NH₂, hydroxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, hydroxyaryl, haloalkyl, arylalkyl, -alkyl-COOR₃, -alkyl-CON(R₃)₂, -alkyl-N(R₃)₂, -aryl-COOR₃, -aryl-CON(R₃)₂, -aryl-N(R₃)₂, 5- or 6-membered nitrogen- or oxygen-containing heterocycle; or two R groups taken together with the one or more atoms to which they are attached form a carbocyclic or heterocyclic, saturated, unsaturated or aromatic spiro or fused ring which may be substituted with R groups;

R₃ is hydrogen, alkyl or aryl; m = 2 to 5; and, p = 0 to 20;

which process comprises

reacting a compound of the formula

10 with two equivalents of a haloketone of the formula

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to provide a diketone of the formula

R NH HN R

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which is thereafter converted to the corresponding dioxime products;

reacting a compound of the formula

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$$H_2N$$
 (CRR) MH_2

with one equivalent of a first haloketone of the formula

R-C-C

to provide an intermediate of the formula

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which is thereafter reacted with one equivalent of a second haloketone of the formula

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wherein at least one of the R groups on said second haloketone differs from the corresponding R groups on said first haloketone, to provide an intermediate of the formula

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and thereafter converting to the corresponding dioxime wherein the R groups substituting said first amine oxime portion of the compound of formula \underline{A} differ from the R groups substituting said second amine oxime portion.

46. A process for preparing a compound of the formula

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where at least one R is $-(A)_p-R_2$ where $(A)_p$ is a linking group and R_2 is a hypoxia localizing moiety; and wherein the other R groups are the same, or different and are independently selected from hydrogen, halogen, hydroxy, alkyl, alkenyl,

alkynyl, alkoxy, aryl, -COOR₃, -C-NHR₃, -NH₂, hydroxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, hydroxyaryl, haloalkyl, arylalkyl, -alkyl-COOR₃, -alkyl-CON(R₃)₂, -alkyl-N(R₃)₂, -aryl-COOR₃, -aryl-CON(R₃)₂, -aryl-N(R₃)₂, 5- or 6-membered nitrogen- or oxygen-containing heterocycle; or two R groups taken together with the one or more atoms to which they are attached form a carbocyclic or heterocyclic, saturated, unsaturated or aromatic spiro or fused ring which may be substituted with R groups;

R₃ is hydrogen, alkyl or aryl; m = 2 to 5; and, p = 0 to 20;

which process comprises:

a) reacting a compound of the formula

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$$(\widehat{CRR})_{S} \overset{R_{2}}{\underset{R}{|CRR|}_{t}}$$

where s is 0 to 4 and t is 0 to 4 with the proviso that s + t is not greater than 4 with two equivalents of a compound of the formula

R R R-C-C=

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where halogen is Br, Cl or I, to provide a diketone of the formula

and thereafter converting the diketone to the corresponding dioxime; or

b) reacting a compound of the formula
$$(CRR)_{\hat{m}}$$

$$H_2N \qquad NH_2$$

with one equivalent of a first compound of the formula

to provide a compound of the formula

and thereafter reacting with a compound of the formula

where R' = R but where one of the R' groups must be $-(A)_p-R_2$

to provide the diketone

10 (where one of the R' must be $-(A)_p-R_2$)

which is thereafter converted to the corresponding dioxime.

- 47. A method for the diagnostic imaging of
 hypoxic tissue in a mammalian species comprising
 the administration of a metal complex of the
 ligands of formula Ia or Ib in claim 12 wherein the
 metal is a radionuclide of technetium and the
 hypoxia-localizing moiety is or contains a hypoxiamediated nitro-heterocyclic group.
 - 48. The method of claim 47 used to diagnose ischemic tissue in the heart.
 - 49. The method of claim 47 used to diagnose ischemic tissue in the lung.
- 25 50. The method of claim 47 used to diagnose ischemic tissue in the kidneys or liver.
 - 51. The method of claim 47 used to diagnose ischemic tissue in the brain.
- 52. The method of claim 47 used to diagnose 30 hypoxic tissue in tumors.

- 53. A method for providing radiotherapy to a mammalian species in need thereof comprising the administration of a complex of formula Ia or Ib in claim 12 wherein the metal is a radionuclide of rhenium and wherein the hypoxia localizing moiety is or contains a hypoxia-mediated nitro-hetero-cyclic group.
 - 54. A method for perfusion imaging of blood flow in a mammalian species comprising the administration of a metal complex of the ligands of formula Ia or Ib in claim 12 wherein the metal is a radionuclide of technetium.

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- 55. A compound of claim 1 having the name 3,3,6,6,9,9-hexamethyl-1-(2-nitro-lH-imidazol-1-yl)- 4,8-diazaundecane-2,10-dione dioxime.
 - 56. A compound of claim 1 having the name 6,6-diethyl-3,3,9,9-tetramethyl-1-(2-nitro-1H-imidazol-1-yl)-4,8-diazaundecane-2,10-dione dioxime.
- 57. A compound of claim 1 having the name 6,6-20 diethyl-3,3,9,9-tetramethyl-1-(4-nitro-1H-imidazol-1-yl)-4,8-diazaundecane-2,10-dione dioxime.
 - 58. A compound of claim 1 having the name 3,3,9,9-tetramethyl-1,11-bis(2-nitro-1H-imidazol-1-yl)-4,8-diazaundecane-2,10-dione dioxime.
- 59. A compound of claim 1 having the name 3,3,9,9-tetramethyl-6-methoxy-1-(2-nitro-1H-imidazol-1-yl)-4,8-diazaundecane-2,10-dione dioxime.

- 60. A complex of claim 2 comprising a radionuclide and a ligand bound to a hypoxia-localizing moiety, wherein said ligand/localizing moiety has the name [99Tc] oxo[(4,4,10,10-tetramethyl-1-(2-nitro-1H-imidazol-1-yl)-5,9-diazadodecane-3,11-dione dioximato] (3-)-N,N',N",N"'] technetium(V).
- 61. A complex of claim 2 comprising a radionuclide and a ligand bound to a hypoxialocalizing moiety, wherein said ligand/localizing moiety has the name [99mTc] oxo[[3,3,6,6,9,9-hexamethyl-1-(2-nitro-1H-imidazol-1-yl)-4,8-diazaundecane-2,10-dione dioximato] (3-)-N,N',N',N'']technetium(V).
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 62. A complex of claim 2 comprising a radionuclide and a ligand bound to a hypoxia-localizing moiety, wherein said ligand/localizing moiety has the name [99mTc] oxo[[3,3,9,9-tetramethyl-1-(2-nitro-1H-imidazol-1-yl)-4,8-diazaundecane-2,10-dione dioximato] (3-)-N,N',N",N"]technetium(V).
 - 63. A compound of claim 1 having the name 3,3,6,9,9-pentamethyl-1-(2-nitro-1H-imidazol-1-yl)-4,8-diazaundecane-2,10-dione dioxime.
- 25 64. A compound of claim 1 having the name 12-methoxycarbonyl-3,3,9,9-tetramethyl-1-(2-nitro-1H-imidazol-1-yl)-4,8-diazadodecane-2,10-dione dioxime.
- 65. A compound of claim 1 having the name 11-ethoxy-3,3,9,9-tetramethyl-1-(2-nitro-1H-imidazol-1-yl)-4,8-diazaundecane-2,10-dione dioxime.
 - 66. A compound of claim 1 having the name 3,3,9,9-tetramethyl-6-[2-hydroxy-3-(2-nitro-

1H-imidazol-1-yl)propyl]-4,8-diazaundecane-2,10-dione dioxime.

- 67. A compound of claim 1 having the name 3,3,9,9-tetramethyl-1-(4-methyl-2-nitro-1H-imidazol-1-yl)-4,8-diazaundecane-2,10-dione dioxime.
 - 68. A compound of claim 1 having the name 3,3,9,9-tetramethyl-1-(5-methyl-2-nitro-1H-imidazol-1-yl)-4,8-diazaundecane-2,10-dione dioxime.

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- 69. A compound of claim 1 having the name 6,6-difluoro-3,3,9,9-tetramethyl-12-(2-nitro-1H-imidazol-1-yl)-4,8-diazadodecane-2,10-dione dioxime.
- 15 70. A compound of claim 1 having the name 3,3,9,9-tetramethyl-1-[2-hydroxy-3-(2-nitro-1H-imidazol-1-yl)propoxy]-4,8-diazaundecane-2,10-dione dioxime.
- 71. A compound of claim 1 having the
 20 name 6-hydroxy-3,3,9,9-tetramethyl-12-(2-nitro-1Himidazol-1-yl)-4,8-diazadodecane-2,10-dione
 dioxime.
- 72. A compound of claim 1 having the name 4,4,10,10-tetramethyl-1,13-bis(2-nitro-1Himidazol-1-yl)-5,9-diazatridecane-3,11-dione dioxime.
- 73. A complex of claim 2 comprising a radionuclide and a ligand bound to a hypoxia-localizing moiety, wherein said ligand/localizing moiety has the name 3,3,6,9,9-pentamethyl-1-(2-nitro-1H-imidazol-1-yl)-4,8-diazaundecane-2,10-dione dioxime.
 - 74. A complex of claim 2 comprising a radionuclide and a ligand bound to a hypoxia-

localizing moiety, wherein said ligand/localizing moiety has the name 12-methoxycarbonyl-3,3,9,9-tetramethyl-1-(2-nitro-1H-imidazol-1-yl)-4,8-diazadodecane-2,10-dione dioxime.

- 5 75. A complex of claim 2 comprising a radionuclide and a ligand bound to a hypoxia-localizing moiety, wherein said ligand/localizing moiety has the name 11-ethoxy-3,3,9,9-tetramethyl-1-(2-nitro-1H-imidazol-1-yl)-4,8-diazaundecane-2,10-dione dioxime.
- 76. A complex of claim 2 comprising a radionuclide and a ligand bound to a hypoxialocalizing moiety, wherein said ligand/localizing moiety has the name 3,3,9,9-tetramethyl-6-[2-hydroxy-3-(2-nitro-1H-imidazol-1-yl)propyl]-4,8-diazaundecane-2,10-dione dioxime.
 - 77. A complex of claim 2 comprising a radionuclide and a ligand bound to a hypoxia-localizing moiety, wherein said ligand/localizing moiety has the name 3,3,9,9-tetramethyl-1-(4-methyl-2-nitro-1H-imidazol-1-yl)-4,8-diazaundecane-2,10-dione dioxime.
- 78. A complex of claim 2 comprising a radionuclide and a ligand bound to a hypoxia25 localizing moiety, wherein said ligand/localizing moiety has the name 3,3,9,9-tetramethyl-1-(5-methyl-2-nitro-1H-imidazol-1-yl)-4,8-diazaundecane-2,10-dione dioxime.
- 79. A complex of claim 2 comprising a radionuclide and a ligand bound to a hypoxialocalizing moiety, wherein said ligand/localizing moiety has the name 6,6-difluoro-3,3,9,9-tetramethyl-12-(2-nitro-1H-imidazol-1-yl)-4,8-diazadodecane-2,10-dione dioxime.

- 80. A complex of claim 2 comprising a radionuclide and a ligand bound to a hypoxia-localizing moiety, wherein said ligand/localizing moiety has the name 3,3,9,9-tetramethyl-1-
- 5 [2-hydroxy-3-(2-nitro-1H-imidazol-1-yl)propoxy]-4,8-diazaundecane-2,10-dione dioxime.
- 81. A complex of claim 2 comprising a radionuclide and a ligand bound to a hypoxia-localizing moiety, wherein said ligand/localizing moiety has the name 6-hydroxy-3,3,9,9-tetramethyl-12-(2-nitro-1H-imidazol-1-yl)-4,8-diazadodecane-2,10-dione dioxime.
- 82. A complex of claim 2 comprising a radionuclide and a ligand bound to a hypoxia15 localizing moiety, wherein said ligand/localizing moiety has the name 4,4,10,10-tetramethyl1,13-bis(2-nitro-1H-imidazol-1-yl)-5,9-diazatri-decane-3,11-dione dioxime.
 - 83. A compound of claim 1 which is

or

84. A multivial kit suitable for preparation of a metal complex of claim 2 comprising

in a first vial a source of reducing agent, 5 and

in a second vial a source of a ligand selected from the compounds of claim 1.